

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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FODAG

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, ETRD, APER, AORG

SUBJ: FAO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY

1. FAO HAS RECENTLY APPOINTED NURUL ISLAM OF BANGLADESH AS THE FAO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY DEPARTMENT. THIS DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMODITY WORK, STATISTICS, NUTRITION, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ETC.

2. FOLLOWING IS FAO PRESS RELEASE ON ISLAM'S APPOINTMENT:
BEGIN TEXT:

ROME, JUNE 24 -- THE APPOINTMENT OF NURUL ISLAM OF BANGLADESH, A NOTED INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST, AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN CHARGE OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY DEPARTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL EDOUARD SAOUMA.

PROFESSOR ISLAM, 48, WHO TAKES OFFICE ON JULY 15, HAS STUDIED AND
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TAUGHT IN LEADING UNIVERSITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND BANGLADESH. HE ALSO HAS SERVED AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE BANGLADESH PLANNING COMMISSION WITH THE STATUS OF MINISTER.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA SAID OF PROFESSOR ISLAM: "HE COMES FROM A REGION WHERE HUNGER AND POVERTY ARE DAILY FACTS OF LIFE. HE HAS SEEN THE PROBLEMS FIRST-HAND AND BRINGS TO FAO A WALTH

OF EXPERIENCE."

PROFESSOR ISLAM, IN SPEAKING OF HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, SAID:
"THE CHALLENGE IS GREAT BECAUSE FAO HAS A CRITICAL ROLE IN
DEALING WITH THE WORLD'S MOST CRUCIAL PROBLEM--THAT OF INCREASING
FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE THIRD WORLD."

FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, PROFESSOR ISLAM HAS BEEN A MEMBER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE. AT THE SAME TIME HE
SERVED AS A FELLOW AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY IN THE FIELD OF INTER-
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, CONCENTRATING PARTICULARLY ON
THE POTENTIAL OF THE PROPOSED NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

AFTER RECEIVING A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE FROM DACCA UNIVERSITY,
IN WHAT WAS THEN EAST PAKISTAN, HE STUDIED AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
WHERE IN 1955 HE BECAME A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMICS.

HE HAS SERVED AS A CONSULTANT FOR UNESCO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND HAS WRITTEN NUMEROUS BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON
ECONOMICS. END TEXT

3. THE FAO IS PLEASED TO HAVE ATTRACTED A MAN OF ISLAM'S
INTELLECTUAL NOTE. PRIVATELY THERE IS SOME QUESTION ON HIS
MANAGERIAL ABILITY. ANY INFORMATION ON ISLAM FROM ADDRESSEES
WOULD BE APPRECIATED, ESPECIALLY ON COMMODITY POLICY.
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